

State of Alaska FY2010 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Conservation Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Wildlife Conservation Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Division of Wildlife Conservation is responsible for the management of Alaska's wildlife resources. The primary goals of the division are to: (1) protect, maintain, and enhance the wildlife resources of Alaska; and (2) provide for their greatest use by the people, consistent with the sustained yield principle, for the well being of the people and the economy of the state.

Core Services

- Biologists and wildlife managers survey and inventory wildlife populations for information on size, trends, productivity, and levels of mortality. Species of primary concentration include: moose, caribou, black bear, brown bear, deer, sheep, mountain goat, bison, muskox, elk, and wolf.
- Biologists also manage furbearers (wolverine, fox, marten, lynx, beaver), waterfowl (ducks, geese, cranes) and small game (ptarmigan, grouse, and hares).
- Biologists and wildlife managers administer hunts within the 26 regulatory Game Management Units by issuing permits, issuing emergency closure and opening orders, and monitoring harvest levels.
- Biologists postulate, conduct, collect data, and document the results of multi-year field studies on wildlife populations to examine productivity, nutrition, predation, and the impacts of disease. Wildlife research is direct to assist in the management and understanding of wildlife and their habitats.
- The public has access to biologists and wildlife managers through the Division's presence in 24 offices statewide. Biological and office staff assess public interests and local needs, direct hunting inquires to appropriate and ethical hunting opportunities, sell hunting and trapping licenses, issue harvest tags and permits, make public presentations, and respond to injured wildlife.
- Staff providing public and hunter services are based in the following communities: Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg, Sitka, Juneau, Cordova, Kodiak, Glennallen, Palmer, Anchorage, Soldotna, Homer, King Salmon, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Tok, Delta Junction, Galena, McGrath, Ft. Yukon, Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, and Barrow.
- Hunter Education is required if born AFTER January 1, 1986 and intend to hunt in Game Management Units 7, 13-15, and 20. Hunter education certification is also required for specific locations. Courses are offered to increase firearm safety, knowledge of regulations, and decrease the wounding loss of game. Specialized hunter education courses are arranged for archery and muzzle-loading firearms. The program constantly recruits volunteers who serve as instructors in many parts of the state.
- The division's role is to provide the Board of Game with biological information, offer suggested regulatory changes based on available information and data, and provide testimony, analyses, and recommendations on proposed changes offered by individuals and organizations. During FY10, Board of Game meetings are planned for the Arctic and Western region for fall, 2008 (Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, 26A), and Interior for spring, 2010 (Game Management Units 12, 19-21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C).
- A central repository for big game and furbearer harvest information is managed by the division. This service administers and conducts the lottery for all Drawing Permit hunts and administers the Tier II Subsistence Permit hunt scoring and allocation system. Data processing support for division services also includes GIS-based data analysis and digital mapping within Game Management Units.
- Management of 32 state wildlife refuges, critical habitat areas, and wildlife sanctuaries for the protection of fish and wildlife, their habitats, and public use. Primary areas include: McNeil River Bear Sanctuary, Creamer's Field, Potters Marsh, Palmer Hay Flats, Walrus Island Sanctuary, and Mendenhall Wetlands.

End Result	Strategies to Achieve End Result
<p>A: Healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska that provide a diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment.</p> <p>Target #1: Achieve population targets for at least 75%</p>	<p>A1: Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.</p> <p>Target #1: Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of</p>

<p>of big game populations for which the Board of Game (BOG) has set targets (i.e., objectives).</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> 45% of big game populations targets set by the Board of Game were met in FY2008, down from 2007 and below the 75% target.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Develop and implement recovery strategies for 75% of those "species of concern" under primary division management.</p> <p><u>Status #2:</u> Conservation action plans are in place for 10/11 (91%) of "species of concern", including blackpoll warbler, Townsend's warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, Steller's eider, spectacled eider, northern goshawk, Arctic peregrine falcon, American peregrine falcon, Aleutian Canada goose and Kenai brown bear.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> No increase in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level.</p> <p><u>Status #3:</u> Five species are listed on the state endangered species list, no change since 1993.</p>	<p>concern and/or key species about which little information exists.</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> In FY08, 32 key species projects were continued and 5 were initiated for a total of 37, exceeding the target.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species, furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft).</p> <p><u>Status #2:</u> During FY08, the division completed 84% of planned wildlife surveys (173 of 209) in which weather or aircraft availability was not a factor, which is below the target of 90%.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Maintain the number of active research projects at 95% or more of the previous year's totals.</p> <p><u>Status #3:</u> The total number of FY08 projects conducted was 7% less than those conducted the prior year, slightly below our target.</p> <p>A2: Provide biological information and recommendations to the Board of Game and state advisory committees as well as to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal regional councils.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Actively participate in 100% of Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, 75% of state advisory committee meetings, and 50% of federal regional council meetings that affect state management.</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> In FY08, we met our targets; division staff actively participated in all state Board of Game and advisory committee meetings addressing wildlife issues, attended and presented information/offered recommendations at 100% of the Federal Subsistence Board meetings and 60% of the federal regional advisory council meetings.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Achieve a 75% adoption rate for regulatory proposals submitted to the Board of Game by the division.</p> <p><u>Status #2:</u> During the fall 2007 through spring 2008 meetings, a combined total of 49 division proposals were submitted; 49 were adopted or amended and adopted by the Board of Game for a 100% adoption rate. Thus for Fiscal Year 2008, the target was achieved.</p> <p>A3: Maintain wildlife habitat on state lands capable of sustaining robust, well-distributed populations of wildlife.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase the percentage of management plans for state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries.</p> <p><u>Status #1:</u> In FY 08, the department completed a</p>
--	--

revision of an existing management plan for two areas: McNeil River State Game Refuge and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. Progress was also made on the development of one new plan for Izembek State Game Refuge. 16 of 32 Special Areas still have no management plan.

A4: Increase low or declining ungulate populations identified under the intensive management law in areas impacted by predators to provide for increased human harvest.

Target #1: Increase ungulate populations by an average of 2% annually in areas where intensive management programs are being implemented.

Status #1: In FY08, Intensive Management was implemented in GMU 9D, bringing to 6 the number of areas where moose or caribou are actively managed. Three of the six areas had a 2% population increase.

A5: Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife.

Target #1: Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3 -year average.

Status #1: In the most recent year available (2007), 135,470 hunting and trapping licenses were sold, a 0.2% decrease from 2006 and slightly below the 3-year running average (136,333).

Target #2: Increase by 1% the 2001 level of adult participation in wildlife viewing.

Status #2: The number of wildlife-watchers increased 8.4% from 2001 to 2006, still slightly below the level in 1996, but meeting our target.

A6: Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife.

Target #1: Increase annually the number of opportunities for Alaskans to learn about wildlife and wildlife management.

Status #1: The Division of Wildlife Conservation's total number of presentations, including wildlife-related forums, lectures, brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications given or produced increased from 275 in FY07 to 342 in FY08.

Target #2: Increase by 5% the number of workshops offered to teachers in wildlife curricula.

Status #2: In FY08, Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild (AWC/PW) 37 workshops were offered, training approximately 450 educators, which exceeded our target.

	<p>Target #3: Increase by 5% the number of hunter education clinics offered.</p> <p>Status #3: The percentage of hunter education clinics offered by the division increased over the previous year by 9%, 6%, and 13%, respectively in FY06, FY07 and FY08, exceeding the 5% annual increase goal.</p>
--	--

Major Activities to Advance Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct population and trend count surveys on wildlife populations. • Conduct Game Management Unit area and/or species-specific research. • Conduct harvest surveys on wildlife populations. • Review proposals from the public pertaining to wildlife in regards to the regulatory process. • Collect, analyze, and provide information regarding wildlife to regulatory bodies. • Develop and present recommendations to the Board of Game. • Participate in regulatory sessions with the Board of Game. • Devise management strategies and plans regarding wildlife habitat. • Conduct field assessments regarding wildlife habitat. • Assign staff to heavily used areas to protect resources and/or public safety. • Participate in interdisciplinary permit review teams regarding wildlife habitat. • Offer biological expertise regarding wildlife habitat. • Conduct prescribed burns to enhance wildlife habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out habitat scarification/crushing. • Build and install nesting structures. • Conduct recruitment and survival surveys on ungulate populations. • Work with the Administration and Legislature to adopt an improved compensation package for biologists comparable to that for federal biologists. • Develop and enhance marketing strategies for the sale of hunting licenses. • Conduct hunter / trapper / viewer clinics for the general public. • Enhance web-based information systems and other publications regarding wildlife resources and opportunities. • Use the media to promote opportunities for wildlife related activities. • Sponsor lecture series and other educational forums for the public. • Development of brochures, news articles and other publications. • Conduct teacher trainings on the use of outdoor and wildlife curricula. • Sponsor outdoor skill clinics.

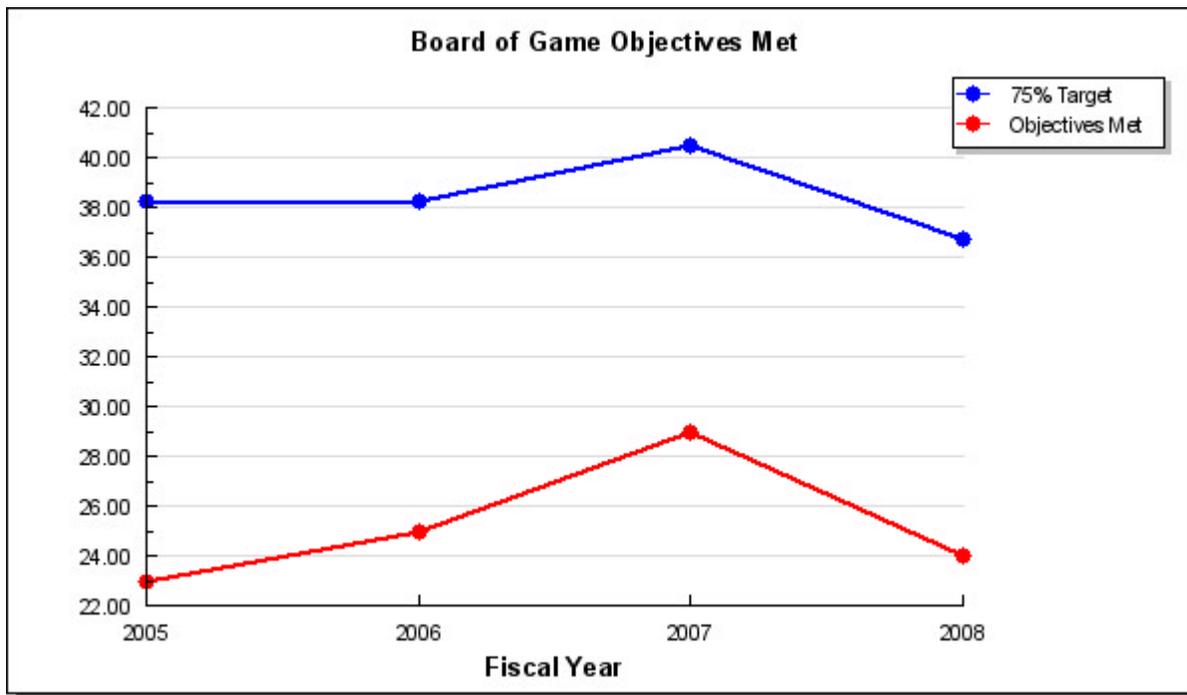
FY2010 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results							
FY2010 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$36,734,200	<p>Personnel:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Full time</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">174</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Part time</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">66</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">240</td> </tr> </table>	Full time	174	Part time	66	Total	240
Full time	174						
Part time	66						
Total	240						

Performance

A: Result - Healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska that provide a diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment.

Target #1: Achieve population targets for at least 75% of big game populations for which the Board of Game (BOG) has set targets (i.e., objectives).

Status #1: 45% of big game populations targets set by the Board of Game were met in FY2008, down from 2007 and below the 75% target.



Methodology: Source: Division Regional Coordinators.

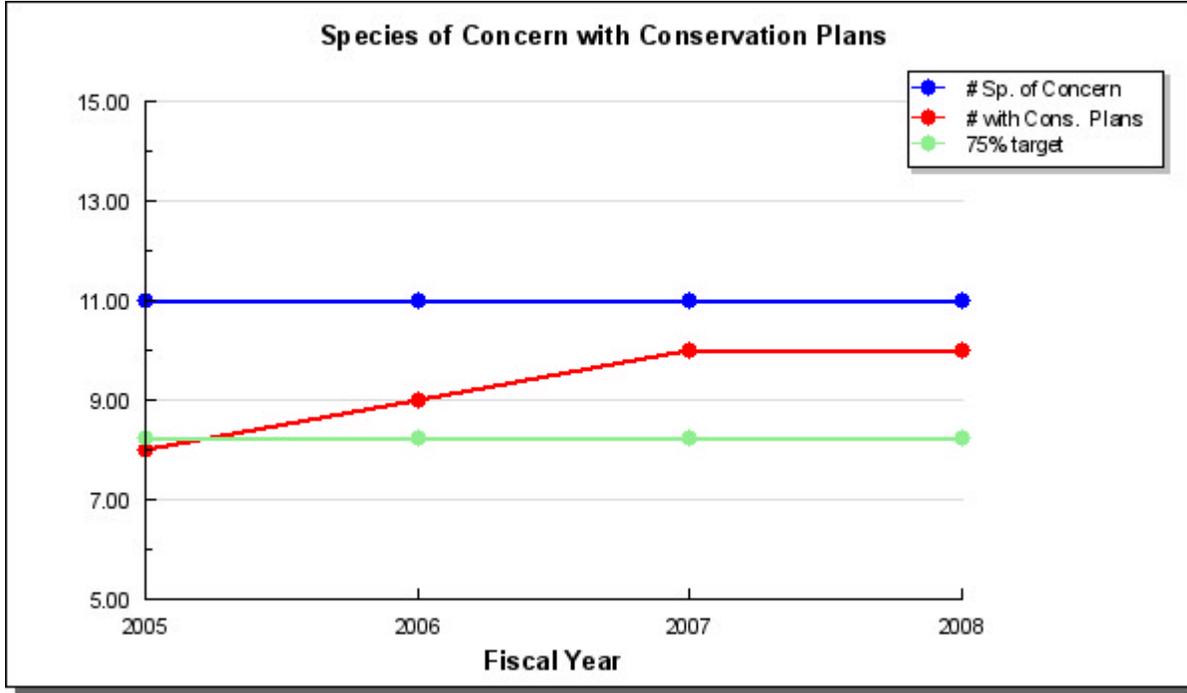
Board of Game Objectives Met

Fiscal Year	75% Target	Objectives Met
FY 2008	36.75	24
FY 2007	40.5	29
FY 2006	38.25	25
FY 2005	38.25	23

Analysis of results and challenges: The Board of Game (BOG) has set population objectives for selected ungulate populations (53 in FY08) that it has determined are important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use. The division's target is 75% of the number of GMU objectives. To meet BOG management objectives, sufficient animals must exist in a game management unit in order to meet the highest levels of hunter demand. For FY08, 24 of the population objectives set for deer, caribou and moose were met; out of the 53 objectives set by the BOG. Because we were unable to conduct some population surveys due to poor weather conditions or a lack of funding, it is unknown whether objectives were met in several units. Thus, five less game management units (GMU) met management objectives in FY08 than in FY07. Some of the population objectives may not be possible to meet given the habitat capacity that can be achieved in some areas. Population objectives for those areas should be reviewed by the BOG and possibly revised.

Target #2: Develop and implement recovery strategies for 75% of those "species of concern" under primary division management.

Status #2: Conservation action plans are in place for 10/11 (91%) of "species of concern", including blackpoll warbler, Townsend's warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, Steller's eider, spectacled eider, northern goshawk, Arctic peregrine falcon, American peregrine falcon, Aleutian Canada goose and Kenai brown bear.



Methodology: There are 11 on the state list of species of concern, 10 have plans, 75% of 11 = 8.25 (target). See http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/esa/species_concern.php

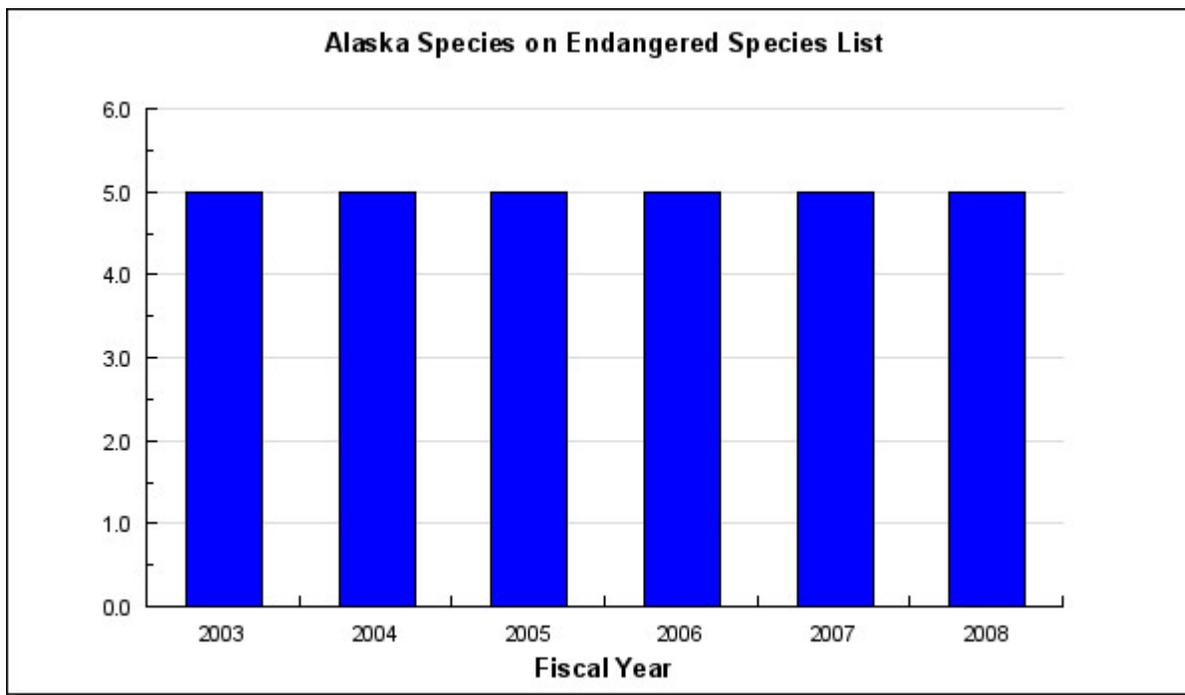
Species of Concern with Conservation Plans

Fiscal Year	# Sp. of Concern	# with Cons. Plans	75% target
FY 2008	11	10	8.25
FY 2007	11	10	8.25
FY 2006	11	9	8.25
FY 2005	11	8	8.25

Analysis of results and challenges: There remain 11 wildlife species of special concern under primary or shared division management. Conservation action plans are in place for 10 (91%) of these species, including blackpoll warbler, Townsend's warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, Steller's eider, spectacled eider, northern goshawk, Arctic peregrine falcon, American peregrine falcon, Aleutian Canada goose and Kenai brown bear. In 1999 the Pacific Flyway Council adopted a management plan for Aleutian Canada goose (updated in 2006) to resume "normal" management after delisting. A plan has not been prepared for the Gray-cheeked thrush. In the state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), completed during FY06, both species are on the nominee list for species of special concern. The State of Alaska Species of Special Concern list was last revised in 1998; therefore, when the list is formally revised Aleutian Canada goose can be removed. Revision of that list is expected to occur in FY09.

Target #3: No increase in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level.

Status #3: Five species are listed on the state endangered species list, no change since 1993.



Methodology: See http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/esa/esa_home.php#endangered_list

Alaska Species on Endangered Species List

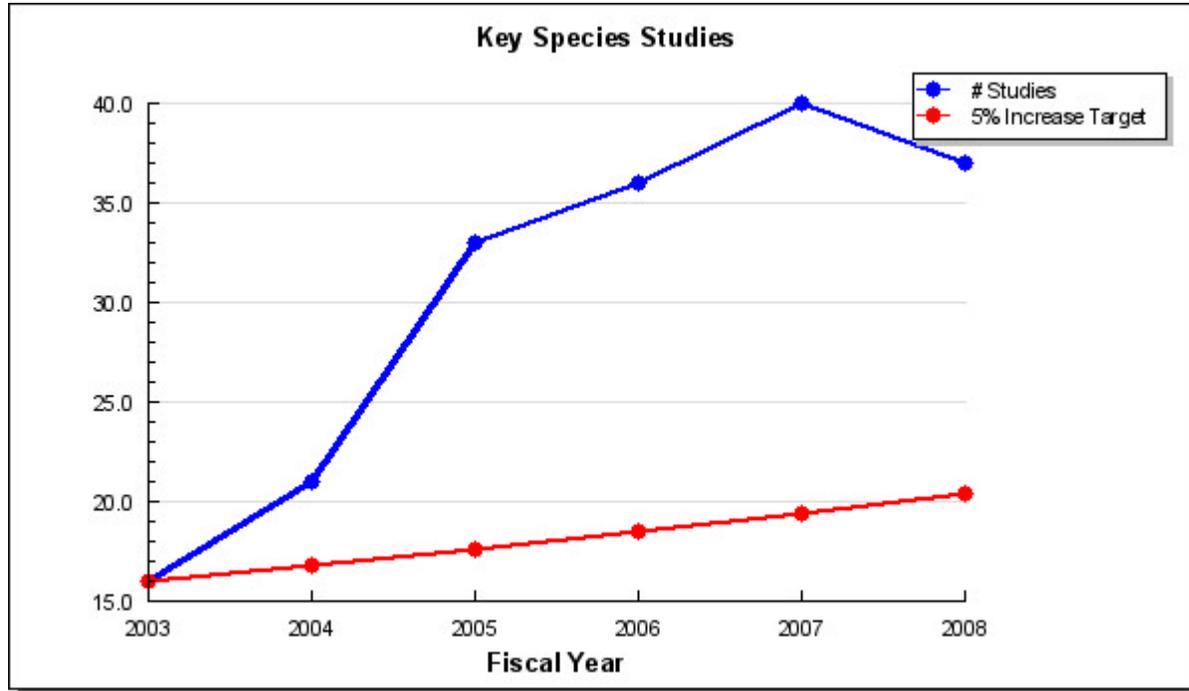
Fiscal Year	Number of Species
FY 2008	5
FY 2007	5
FY 2006	5
FY 2005	5
FY 2004	5
FY 2003	5

Analysis of results and challenges: The state endangered species list includes the Eskimo curlew, short-tailed albatross, humpback whale, right whale, and blue whale. There has been no change in the state endangered species list since 1993 and no new species were added to federal lists in FY08.

A1: Strategy - Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.

Target #1: Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of concern and/or key species about which little information exists.

Status #1: In FY08, 32 key species projects were continued and 5 were initiated for a total of 37, exceeding the target.



Methodology: The numbers of studies on key species are simply tallied for the state fiscal year. The target is a 5% increase in the number of studies from the previous fiscal year. Some projects study families of species, such as raptors, owls, bats, etc. so the number is conservative. Source: DWC Federal Assistance Coordinator who receives all State Wildlife Grant proposals and performance reports.

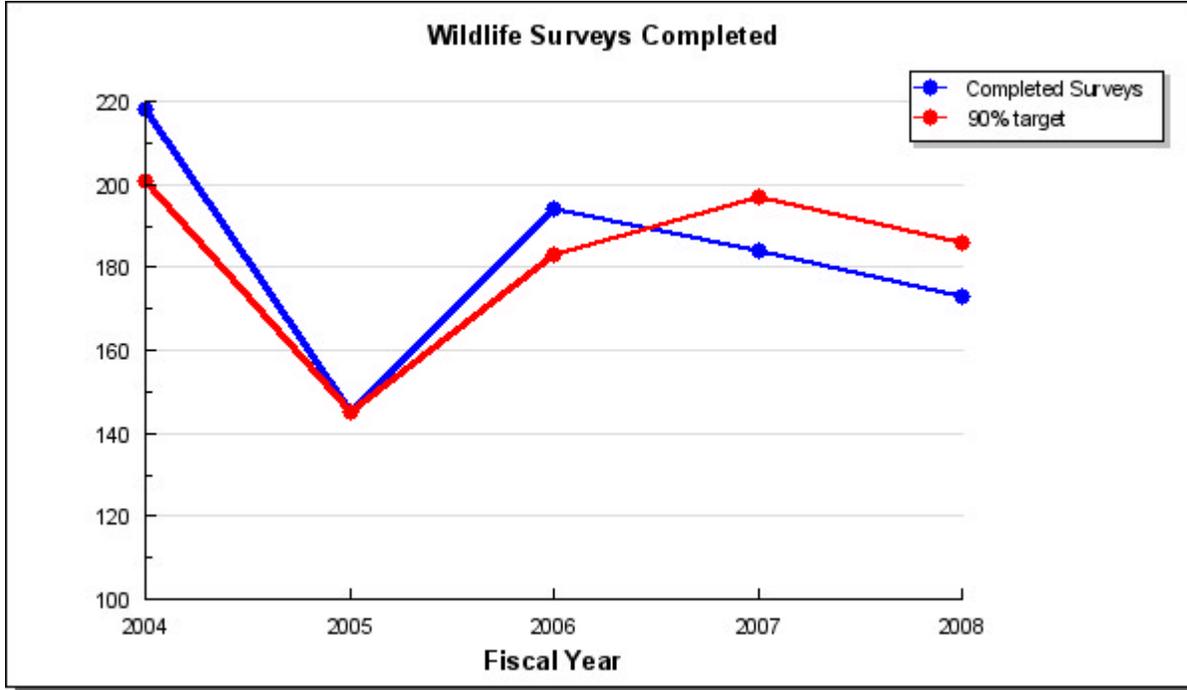
Key Species Studies

Fiscal Year	# Studies	5% Increase Target
FY 2008	37	20.4
FY 2007	40	19.4
FY 2006	36	18.5
FY 2005	33	17.6
FY 2004	21	16.8
FY 2003	16	16.0

Analysis of results and challenges: Analysis of results and challenges: In FY08, 32 key species projects were continued and 5 were initiated for a total of 37. This represents a slight decrease over FY07's 40 projects, partly due to the availability of federal State Wildlife Grant funds. However, several of the FY08 projects are for surveys of multiple key species. These projects include surveys of raptors on Minto Flats State Game Refuge and in western and northwestern Alaska, and landbirds and mammals on state managed lands. Thus, the number of FY08 projects indicated is much less than the actual number of key species that are being surveyed.

Target #2: Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species, furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft).

Status #2: During FY08, the division completed 84% of planned wildlife surveys (173 of 209) in which weather or aircraft availability was not a factor, which is below the target of 90%.



Methodology: Source: Division regional management coordinators and Federal Assistance project statements and performance reports. Proposed surveys are tallied; 90% of the total proposed is the target. Completed surveys are tallied.

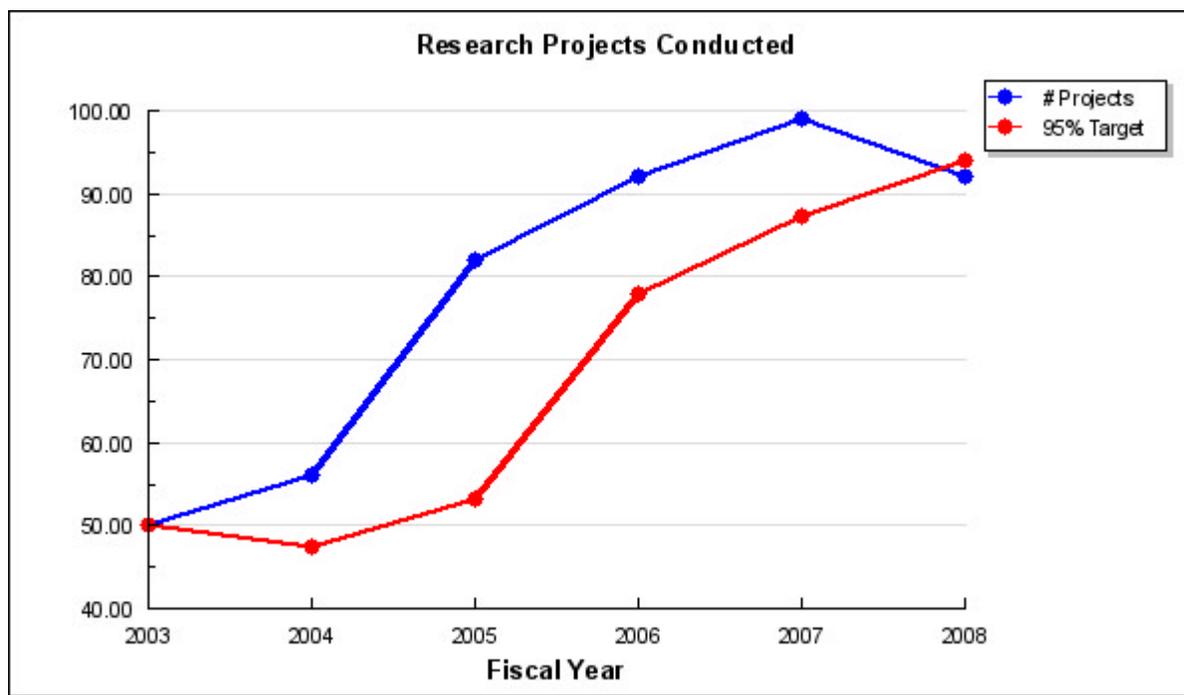
Wildlife Surveys Completed

Fiscal Year	Completed Surveys	90% target
FY 2008	173	186
FY 2007	184	197
FY 2006	194	183
FY 2005	145	145
FY 2004	218	201

Analysis of results and challenges: Analysis of results and challenges: During FY08, the division completed 84% of planned wildlife surveys (173 of 209) in which weather or aircraft availability was not a factor. A number of planned surveys (not included in the 209 count) were cancelled because of survey conditions, such as lack of snow on the ground or adverse weather. Budget constraints and/or personnel vacancies were the main reasons why we failed to complete some surveys. Cost increases have exceeded increases in available funds, both for personnel and for aviation fuel, which has increased the costs of charter flights and operating department aircraft.

Target #3: Maintain the number of active research projects at 95% or more of the previous year's totals.

Status #3: The total number of FY08 projects conducted was 7% less than those conducted the prior year, slightly below our target.



Methodology: Source: Federal Assistance (WR, SWG and ESA-sec. 6) performance reports and research management coordinators that provide information on non-Federal Assistance projects. Studies during the FY are tallied. 95% target is based on the previous FY number of studies.

Game studies: http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=management.research_projects

Nongame studies: http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=pubs.fa_research

Research Projects Conducted

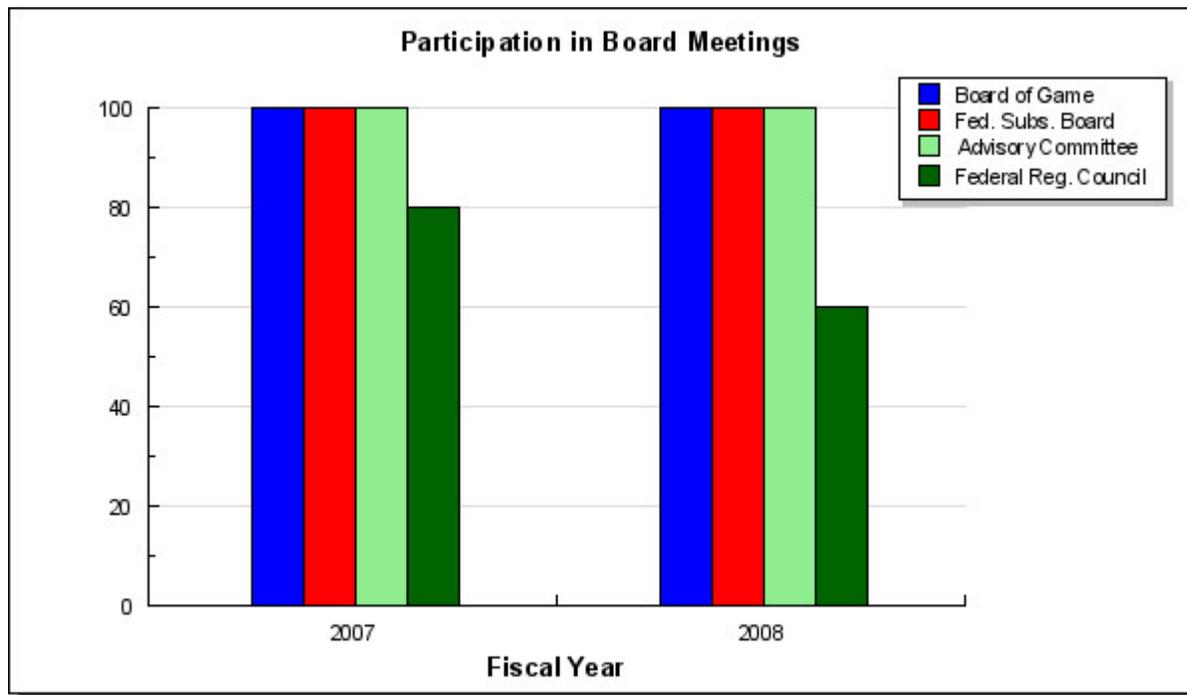
Fiscal Year	# Projects	95% Target
FY 2008	92	94.05
FY 2007	99	87.4
FY 2006	92	77.9
FY 2005	82	53.2
FY 2004	56	47.5
FY 2003	50	50

Analysis of results and challenges: During FY08, 42 big game research projects, 21 marine mammal program research projects, 5 waterfowl/game bird, and 24 nongame research projects were conducted, for a total of 92 division research projects. 15 additional nongame research projects were conducted by partners with the division using State Wildlife Grant (SWG) funds. In the previous year (FY07), DWC conducted 62 big game research projects, 20 marine mammal program research projects, 2 waterfowl/game bird, and 15 nongame research projects for a total of 99 division research projects, and collaborated on 20 additional nongame partner projects. The total number of FY08 projects conducted was 7% less than those conducted the prior year, as a result of 3:1 SWG match projects terminating and new 1:1 match requirements making it more difficult to initiate projects.

A2: Strategy - Provide biological information and recommendations to the Board of Game and state advisory committees as well as to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal regional councils.

Target #1: Actively participate in 100% of Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, 75% of state advisory committee meetings, and 50% of federal regional council meetings that affect state management.

Status #1: In FY08, we met our targets; division staff actively participated in all state Board of Game and advisory committee meetings addressing wildlife issues, attended and presented information/offered recommendations at 100% of the Federal Subsistence Board meetings and 60% of the federal regional advisory council meetings.



Methodology: Source: Terry Haynes was DWC's representative. (he retired)

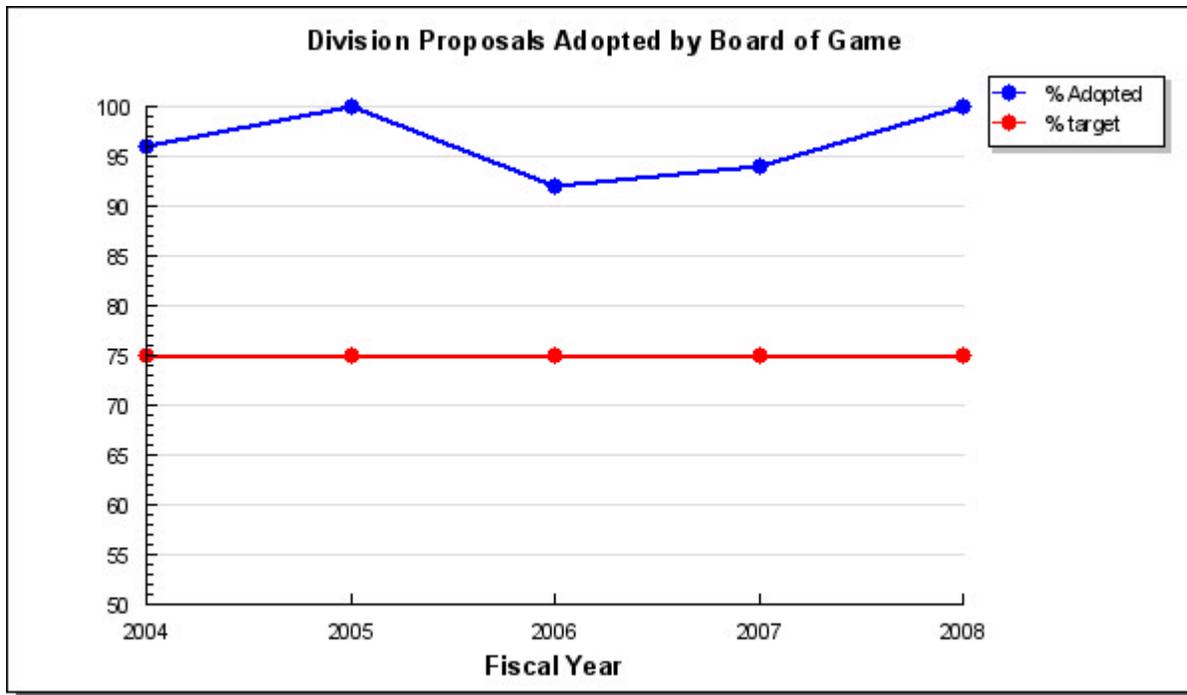
Participation in Board Meetings

Fiscal Year	Board of Game	Fed. Subs. Board	Advisory Committee	Federal Reg. Council
FY 2008	100 0%	100 0%	100 0%	60 -25%
FY 2007	100	100	100	80
FY 0				

Analysis of results and challenges: The decline in attendance at regional council meetings was attributable to conflicts with state board meetings and the absence of wildlife issues on the agendas of several regional council meetings in fall 2007.

Target #2: Achieve a 75% adoption rate for regulatory proposals submitted to the Board of Game by the division.

Status #2: During the fall 2007 through spring 2008 meetings, a combined total of 49 division proposals were submitted; 49 were adopted or amended and adopted by the Board of Game for a 100% adoption rate. Thus for Fiscal Year 2008, the target was achieved.



Division Proposals Adopted by Board of Game

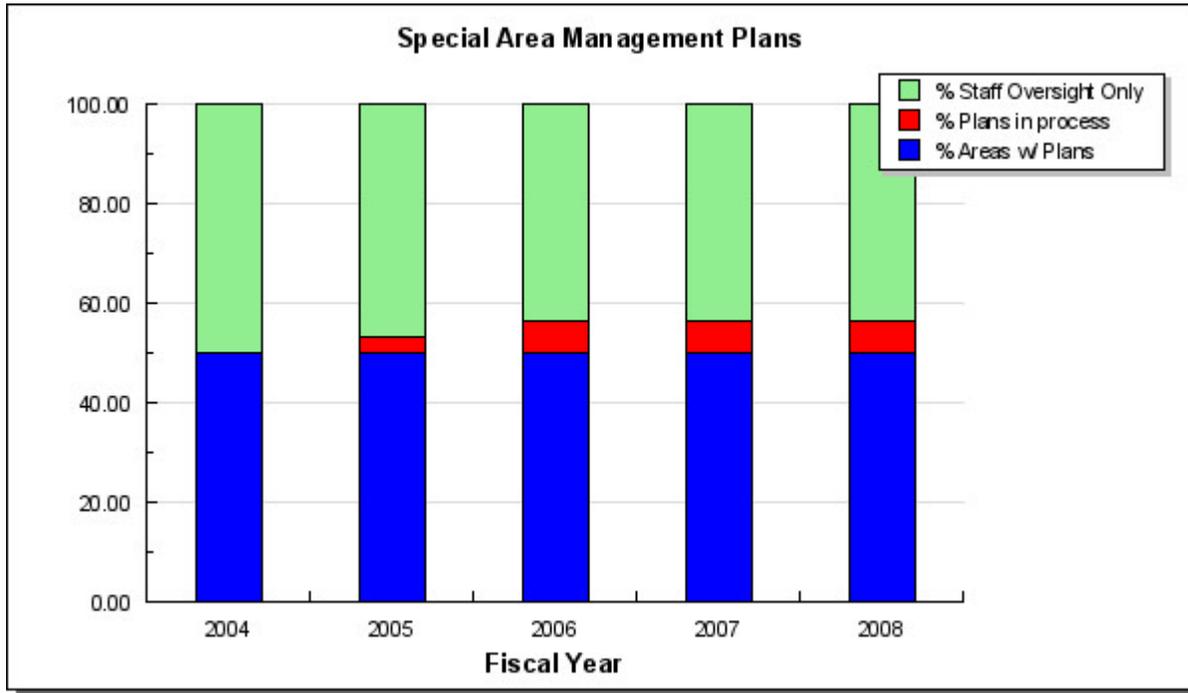
Fiscal Year	% Adopted	% target
FY 2008	100	75
FY 2007	94	75
FY 2006	92	75
FY 2005	100	75
FY 2004	96	75

Analysis of results and challenges: During the fall 2007 through spring 2008 meetings, a combined total of 49 division proposals were submitted; 49 were adopted or amended and adopted by the Board of Game for a 100% adoption rate. Thus for Fiscal Year 2008, the target was achieved. The total includes 25 reauthorizations of cow moose hunts which require the agreement of local Fish and Game Advisory committees. All 25 reauthorizations were adopted.

A3: Strategy - Maintain wildlife habitat on state lands capable of sustaining robust, well-distributed populations of wildlife.

Target #1: Increase the percentage of management plans for state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries.

Status #1: In FY 08, the department completed a revision of an existing management plan for two areas: McNeil River State Game Refuge and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. Progress was also made on the development of one new plan for Izembek State Game Refuge. 16 of 32 Special Areas still have no management plan.



Methodology: <http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=refuge.main> and Mark Fink in Habitat Division

Special Area Management Plans

Fiscal Year	% Areas w/ Plans	% Plans in process	% Staff Oversight Only
FY 2008	50	6.25	43.75
FY 2007	50	6.25	43.75
FY 2006	50	6.25	43.75
FY 2005	50	3.125	46.875
FY 2004	50	0	50

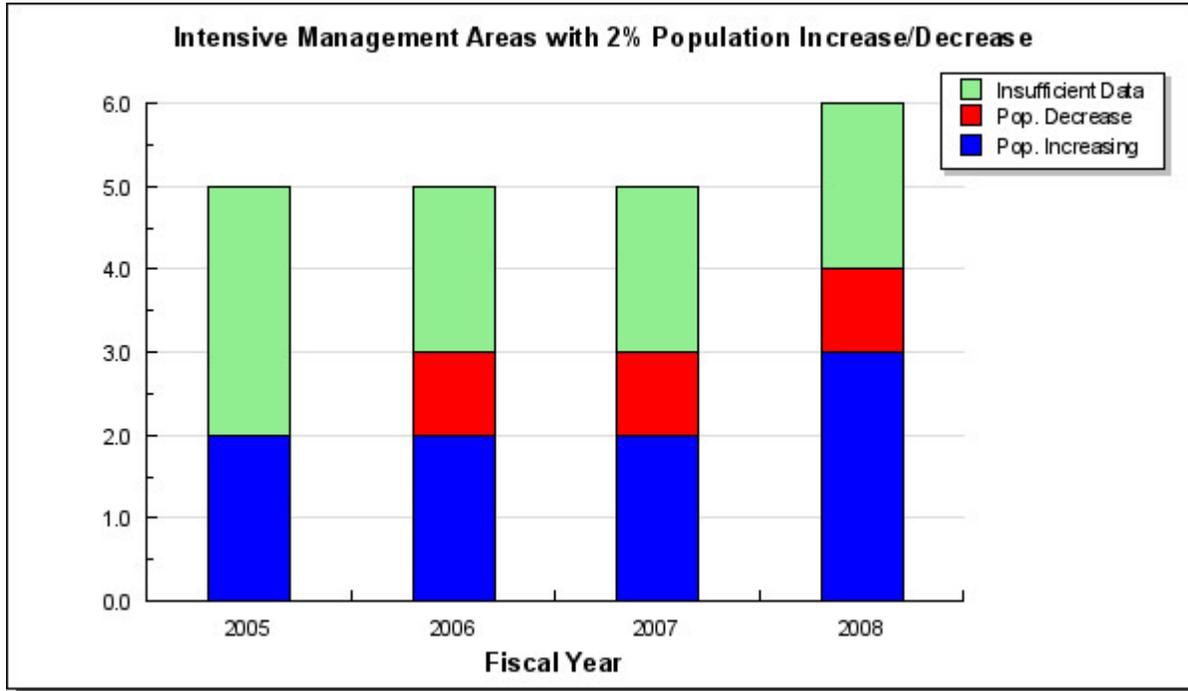
Analysis of results and challenges: ADF&G manages 32 Special Areas (12 refuges, 3 sanctuaries, and 17 critical habitat areas). While Sport Fish Division has the primary responsibility for the management planning process of Special Areas, the Division of Wildlife Conservation has the lead responsibility for preparing the background (resource) information for each management plan. The department has completed management plans for 14 areas; another area is managed via a DNR State Park plan; and one additional area is managed with an Interim Management Plan. The number of management plans had not increased in the previous five years (2003-2007), although a revision of one plan was completed in 2002 and the State Park management plan was revised in 2002. 16 Special Areas have no management plan.

In FY 08, the department completed a revision of an existing management plan for two areas: McNeil River State Game Refuge and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. Progress was also made on the development of one new plan for Izembek State Game Refuge.

A4: Strategy - Increase low or declining ungulate populations identified under the intensive management law in areas impacted by predators to provide for increased human harvest.

Target #1: Increase ungulate populations by an average of 2% annually in areas where intensive management programs are being implemented.

Status #1: In FY08, Intensive Management was implemented in GMU 9D, bringing to 6 the number of areas where moose or caribou are actively managed. Three of the six areas had a 2% population increase.



Methodology: Division region 2 & 3 Management Coordinators supplied all information.

Intensive Management Areas with 2% Population Increase/Decrease

Fiscal Year	Pop. Increasing	Pop. Decrease	Insufficient Data
FY 2008	3	1	2
FY 2007	2	1	2
FY 2006	2	1	2
FY 2005	2	0	3

Analysis of results and challenges: Facing a "serious conservation concern," DWC implemented predator management in FY08 in GMU 9D after the Alaska Board of Game voted to adopt a predator management program to help the severely declining Southern Alaska Peninsula (SAP) caribou herd. The herd presently numbers 600 caribou, down from a historical high of 10,000 caribou in 1983. Surveys confirmed that nearly all calves have been dying early in life, and at a much higher rate than observed in other Alaska herds, as a result of wolf predation. Last year, prior to the wolf control action, the July 1st parturition surveys indicated that less than 1% of the calves had survived. This year's July 1st parturition survey found approximately 50% of the calves had survived. In order for this program to be successful these calves must be recruited into the reproductive segment of the population. That is still in the future, but initial results are very encouraging.

The GMU 13 moose population has averaged about 4% annual increases since the program was initiated in 2001. Poor weather has precluded any population estimation in GMU 16B for the last four years.

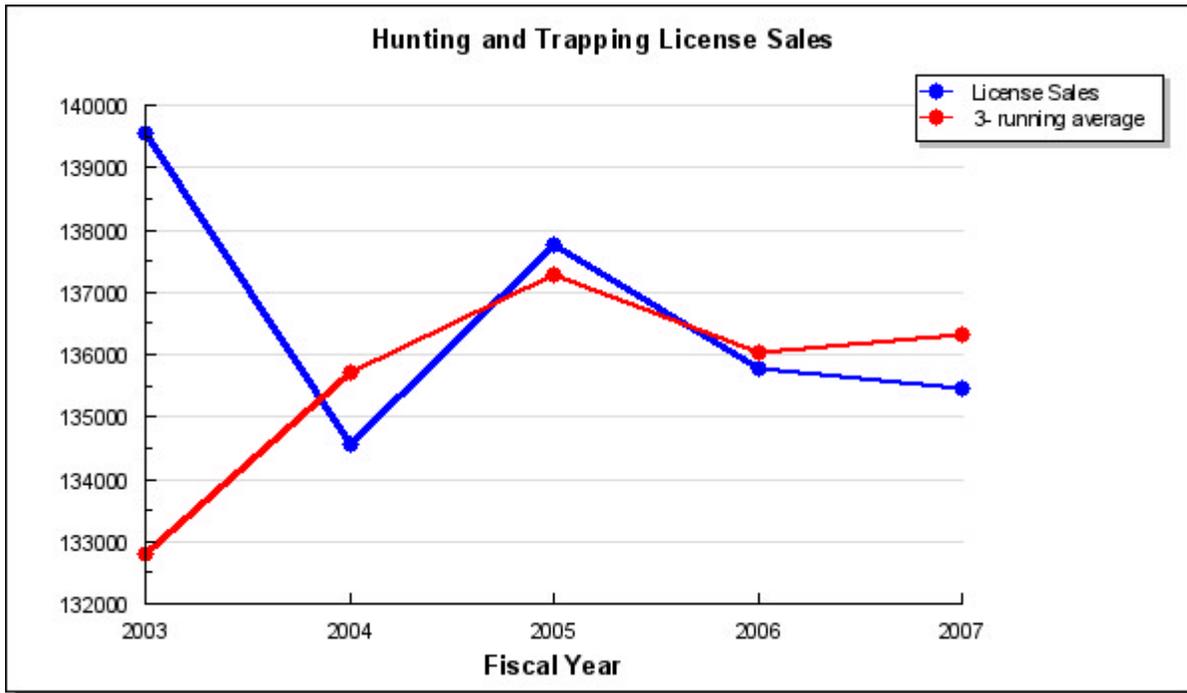
Five Intensive Management Programs (IMPs) have been implemented by the division – in Game Management Units (GMU) 13, 16B, 19A, 19D East, 20E/12.

Based upon survival among radiocollared animals and on population estimates in the Experimental Micro Management Area in FY08, the moose population in Unit 19D-east likely increased by more than 2% over the previous year. In Unit 19A, the moose population also likely increased by at least 2% over the previous year. Most of the increase was in the western portion of the unit where control efforts were most effective. In the upper Yukon/Tanana, the moose and Fortymile caribou population likely did not increase in FY 08. Wolf control efforts were hampered by lack of snow for tracking wolf movements and for landing aircraft to retrieve wolves taken under the program. Very few grizzly bears were taken under the control program due to low public participation.

A5: Strategy - Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife.

Target #1: Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3 -year average.

Status #1: In the most recent year available (2007), 135,470 hunting and trapping licenses were sold, a 0.2% decrease from 2006 and slightly below the 3-year running average (136,333).



Methodology: Data is at <http://www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/admin/license/licstats.html>

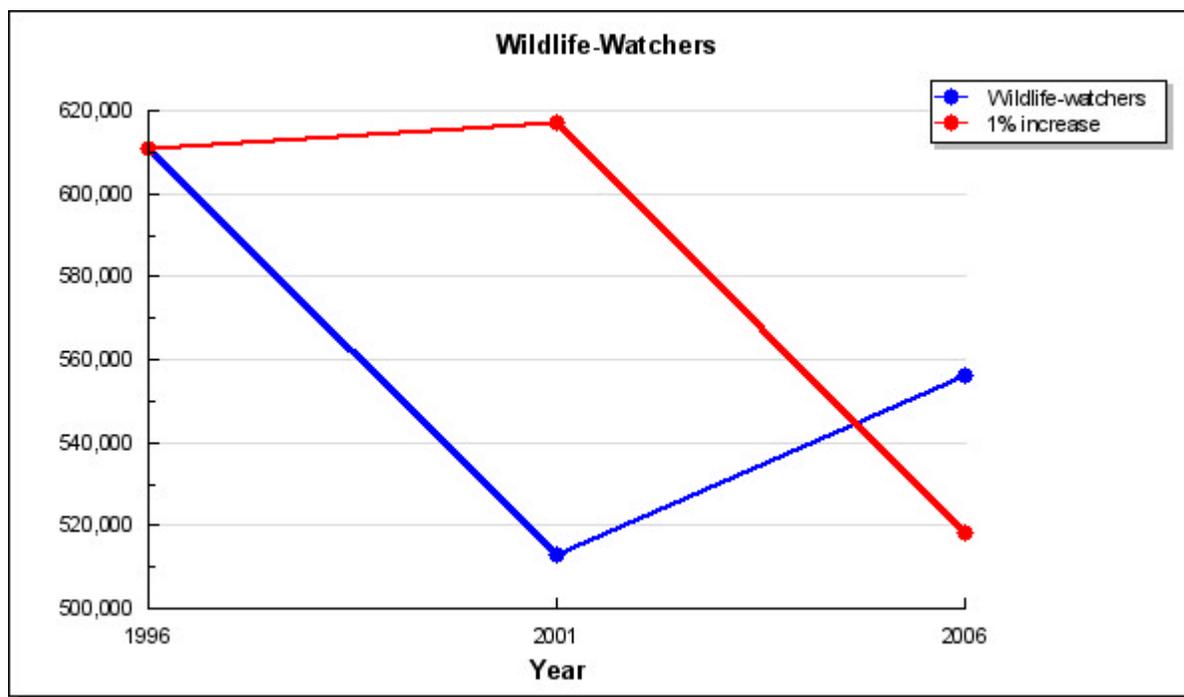
Hunting and Trapping License Sales

Fiscal Year	License Sales	3- running average
FY 2007	135470	136333
FY 2006	135782	136030
FY 2005	137747	137283
FY 2004	134562	135718
FY 2003	139539	132791

Analysis of results and challenges: Over the past three calendar years, 2007 sales of sale of hunting and trapping licenses were the lowest. Since 2001, sales peaked in 2003 at 139,539. These totals include resident, nonresident and military hunting and trapping licenses. One incentive for hunters and trappers to buy licenses is confidence that game populations are abundant and that there are good opportunities to hunt and harvest game.

Target #2: Increase by 1% the 2001 level of adult participation in wildlife viewing.

Status #2: The number of wildlife-watchers increased 8.4% from 2001 to 2006, still slightly below the level in 1996, but meeting our target.



Methodology: Data from state report @ <http://federalaid.fws.gov/surveys/surveys.html>

Wildlife-Watchers

Year	Wildlife-watchers	1% increase
2006	556,000	518,130
2001	513,000	617,100
1996	611,000	611,000

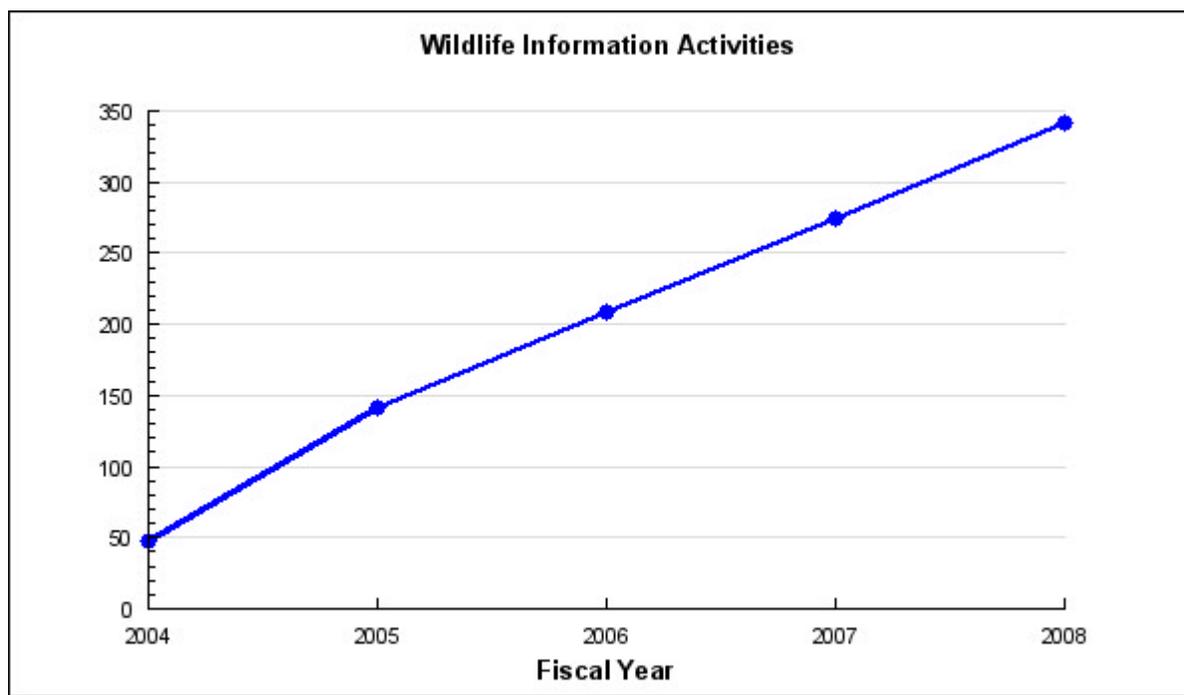
Analysis of results and challenges: Nationally, the number of adult (>16 year old) wildlife watchers increased in number by 8% from 2001 to 2006 (See <http://federalaid.fws.gov/surveys/surveys.html>). In Alaska, the trend was similar. The number of wildlife-watchers increased 8.4% from 2001 to 2006, but is still slightly below the level in 1996.

Existing Department data suggests that the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation may have significantly underestimated participation in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Alaska in 2006. Discussions are ongoing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the 2006 estimates at this time and the wildlife viewing participation estimate may be revised in the future.

A6: Strategy - Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife.

Target #1: Increase annually the number of opportunities for Alaskans to learn about wildlife and wildlife management.

Status #1: The Division of Wildlife Conservation's total number of presentations, including wildlife-related forums, lectures, brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications given or produced increased from 275 in FY07 to 342 in FY08.



Methodology: Source: educators and information officer. Presentations, forums, lectures, articles, etc. were tallied.

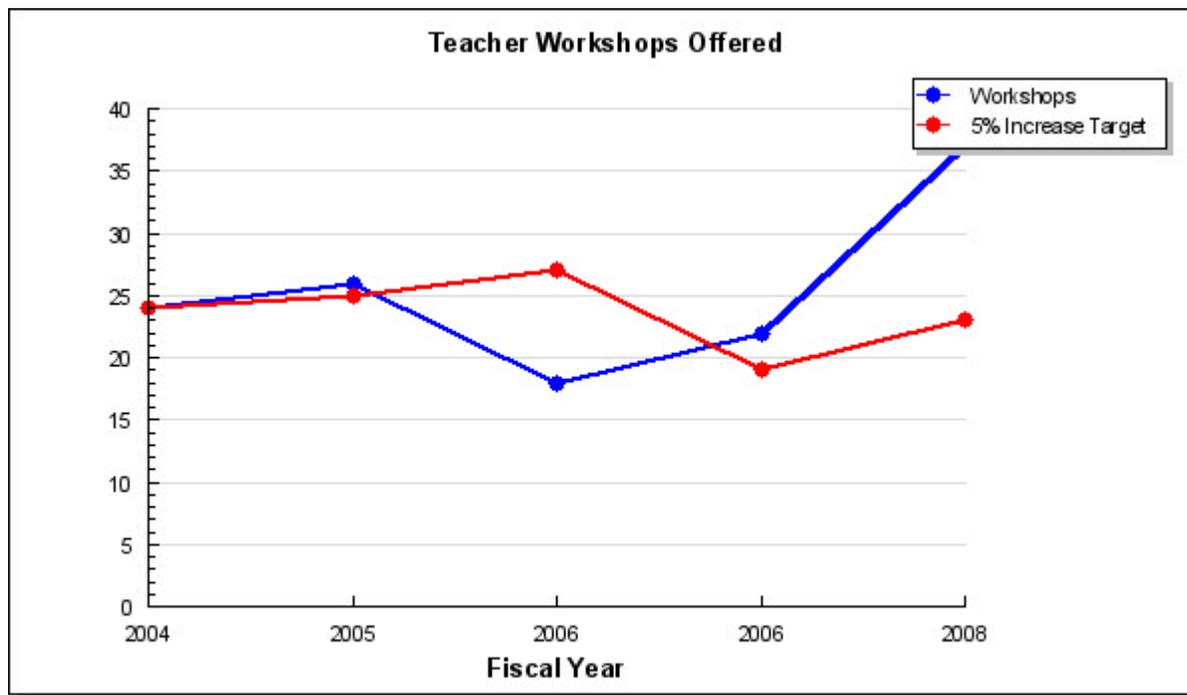
Wildlife Information Activities

Fiscal Year	Total Info. Activities
FY 2008	342
FY 2007	275
FY 2006	208
FY 2005	142
FY 2004	48

Analysis of results and challenges: The Division of Wildlife Conservation's total number of presentations, including wildlife-related forums, lectures, brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications given or produced increased from 275 in FY07 to 342 in FY08. Lectures and workshops increased from 144 in FY07 to 181 in FY08. In FY08 there were 99 unique media presentations and articles completed by our wildlife educators and information officer, up from 68 the previous year. Our online magazine, Alaska Wildlife News, featured about 40 articles on Alaska wildlife and management, and receives at least ten thousand visitors each month. Over this same time period, the total number of electronic and broadcast media opportunities dealing with wildlife and wildlife management, including weekly radio spots (52 Sounds Wild) and guest presentations on radio or TV shows leveled off. It is difficult to quantify Division of Wildlife Conservation web page content, however posted information increased substantially as new management and research reports, and harvest information were posted for public access.

Target #2: Increase by 5% the number of workshops offered to teachers in wildlife curricula.

Status #2: In FY08, Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild (AWC/PW) 37 workshops were offered, training approximately 450 educators, which exceeded our target.



Methodology: Source: DWC educators. Workshops were tallied for the FY.

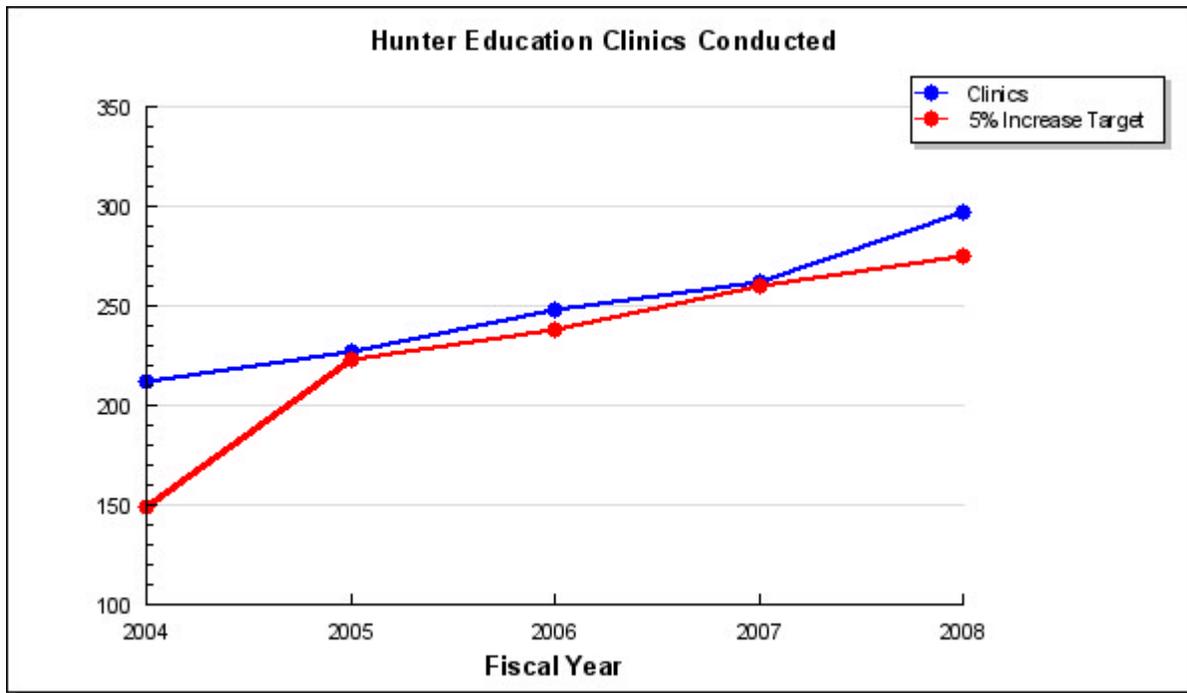
Teacher Workshops Offered

Fiscal Year	Workshops	5% Increase Target
FY 2008	37	23
FY 2006	18	27
FY 2006	22	19
FY 2005	26	25
FY 2004	24	24

Analysis of results and challenges: In FY08, Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild (AWC/PW) 37 workshops were offered, training approximately 450 educators. In FY07, 22 Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild (AWC/PW) workshops were offered, training 200 educators. DWC easily surpassed our goal to increase the number of workshops by 5%. This large increase is due to the hiring of a Project Wild coordinator in Anchorage.

Target #3: Increase by 5% the number of hunter education clinics offered.

Status #3: The percentage of hunter education clinics offered by the division increased over the previous year by 9%, 6%, and 13%, respectively in FY06, FY07 and FY08, exceeding the 5% annual increase goal.



Methodology: Source: Federal Assistance performance reports for hunter education programs.

Hunter Education Clinics Conducted

Fiscal Year	Clinics	5% Increase Target
FY 2008	297	275
FY 2007	262	260
FY 2006	248	238
FY 2005	227	223
FY 2004	212	149

Analysis of results and challenges: The division is increasing the number of clinics it offers through use of the mobile training unit which travels to communities on the road system and to Southeast Alaska on the marine highway system. The division is also training more instructors in remote communities to run clinics in the absence of the division's hunter education staff. More specialized clinics (archery, muzzleloader, bear hunting, etc.) are offered to meet mandatory hunter training requirements to appeal to hunters with specialized interests. Hunter education course schedules are posted on-line so that the public can plan ahead to attend the clinic most convenient for them. Our first online course, Today's Bowhunter in Alaska, went public in 2008.

Key RDU Challenges

Eight program issues face the Division of Wildlife Conservation in FY10. These include: (1) meeting an increased demand for hunting opportunities from the public; (2) gathering and maintaining sound scientific information for wildlife management; (3) managing for the statutory state subsistence preference and all other uses while addressing Alaskan concerns about federal intervention into management of resident wildlife for subsistence on federal lands; (4) protecting the State's interests in the federal designation of species as Threatened or Endangered; (5) meeting demands of the public for a strong conservation education program, more wildlife viewing opportunities, and management of non-hunted species; (6) continuing state involvement in management and research of marine

mammals, particularly in light of rising concerns about implications associated with climate change; (7) addressing increasing urban human-wildlife conflicts; and (8) successfully restoring wood bison to the wilds of Alaska.

Game Management and Hunting Opportunities

Predation by wolves and bears has a major impact on many wildlife populations in Alaska. The division will continue to work with the Board of Game to develop biologically sound and cost effective programs to regulate predator populations where necessary to enhance numbers and distribution of important ungulate herds.

Under A.S. 16.05.255, the Board of Game is charged with carrying out intensive management programs for identified big game populations failing to meet regulatory management objectives. In five areas, predator management is being used as a tool to boost the harvestable surpluses of moose and caribou populations and provide increased hunting opportunities for Alaskans. These programs are targeted at subunits within Game Management Units (GMU) 12, 13, 16, 19, and 20. In GMU 9, the division has engaged in wolf control efforts to arrest and turn around a precipitous decline in the Southern Alaska Peninsula (SAP) caribou herd. The division has allocated all available funds to supporting studies and currently lacks resources to document population parameters in order to support, sustain, and defend new intensive management programs in the face of ongoing opposition and litigation. Without these programs, hunting opportunities will be severely reduced, and in the case of the SAP caribou herd, no action by the division will very likely result in the elimination of the herd.

The division's ability to maintain healthy populations of wildlife is directly related to the ability of Alaska's land and water resources to support these populations. Loss or serious alteration of important wildlife habitats can have direct and long-term economic impacts on the state by reducing the sustainable yield of these renewable resources. Because of increasing human populations and the need for an expanded and more diversified economy, the division must work closely with development interests and other agencies to effectively mitigate the effects of development through active management programs that ensure adequate protection of wildlife values and continued opportunities for public use of these resources. The process depends on the division's ability to provide the latest information, techniques, and research findings to all parties involved, in a timely and efficient manner.

Protect State Interests in the Designation and Management of Endangered Species

The listing of species as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) can have adverse economic impacts on Alaska. Division programs have been designed to provide for population recovery of listed species as well as preventing the need for additional listings. The division will continue to collect information on several species in an effort to ensure that species are not unnecessarily listed under the federal act. Funding has been included with the budget request to insure that the division and department are responsive when issues arise regarding potential ESA listings.

Funding Diversity

There continues to be a need to address funding for the division's programs. Revenues into the Fish and Game Fund are derived from the sale of hunting and trapping licenses to residents and non-residents, special permits, tag fees, sanctuary access permits, shooting range fees, waterfowl stamps and limited edition prints, and educational publications and videos. Revenue generated from these sources has decreased from FY01 through FY08. Revenue received during FY08 was 3.36% less than the amount received in FY01. Nationwide, hunting license sales are on the decline.

Contributions to the day-to-day work of Wildlife Conservation from the General Fund are appropriate as the mission of the division is to manage and conserve wildlife for the people of the state, including both those who consume resources and those who do not. During the 1990s and up through FY05, the division was funded almost entirely by dedicated revenue provided by hunting license purchasers and proceeds from the federal Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund. Diversification of the funding sources for the division helps staff meet public demands for services.

Matching Funds for State Wildlife Grants

The Department is apportioned funding from the Department of Interior for the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program as part of an annual congressional appropriation. This program concentrates field work on species of greatest conservation need as identified by Alaska's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). The completion of the CWCS was a requirement by the U.S. Department of Interior in order to continue receiving funding through the SWG program.

Beginning in federal fiscal year 2006, the matching requirement for these funds changed from requiring a 25% match to a 50% match. The Division of Wildlife Conservation would require a state appropriation of \$2.0 million annually to meet this requirement. At this time, we have just over \$690.0 available to match federal funds. Without matching funds, the Department may be required to return federal funds.

Funding Decreases Expected for Marine Mammal Research

Staffing and field research toward Steller sea lions, harbor seals, and ice seals totaled approximately \$2.5 million during FY08 and was funded exclusively from grant agreements from the federal Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The research work was formerly shown in the NOAA budget as earmarks but funding levels from Congress to NOAA were reduced beginning with impacts for state FY09. The department was notified in January 2008 that federal funding for activities in FY09 would reduce by \$1.18 million. The 2008 Legislature approved restoring funding for FY09 with general funds as a one-time item. The Division of Wildlife Conservation does not expect sufficient federal funds will be available for FY10 and continues to require general funds to retain and maintain the division's marine mammal research capabilities. A partial restoration of the one-time item is requested.

Dual Management

The federal assertion of management authorities for subsistence hunting on federal lands continues to have major impacts on the management of wildlife in Alaska. The division continues to work to address resource management and allocation conflicts between state and federal managers.

Increased Urban Human-Wildlife Conflicts

As Alaska's cities have grown and expanded into previously unaltered wildlife habitat, conflicts between humans and wildlife have increased. Most notable are human conflicts with bears and moose. As division staff are called upon to deal with these conflicts, efforts related to the division's core function of surveying, monitoring, and managing the state's wildlife populations become compromised. This results in reduced population data which, in turn, results in more conservative hunting seasons and bag limits. The division has submitted a FY10 capital project request in an effort to deal effectively and responsibly with human-wildlife conflicts without compromising other foundational programs.

Wood Bison Reintroductions

Wood bison are native to Alaska but were extirpated about 150 years ago. Efforts to reestablish wood bison in Alaska have been slow and tedious, with numerous challenges to overcome. In June 2008, with the financial support of several conservation organizations, 52 captive wood bison were delivered from Elk Island National Park in Alberta, Canada, to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage, Alaska. These bison must be held for two years of disease testing before they can be released into the wild. Holding the bison is expensive, as is the ultimate releases, and follow-up monitoring. The division has submitted a FY10 capital project request to cover a portion of the cost of the reintroduction however, additional funding will be needed for this project to continue.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2010

The Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program Component will be merged into the Wildlife Conservation Special Projects Component in FY10.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2008

Wildlife Survey and Inventory

Conducted wildlife survey and inventory management projects for 11 big game species (black and brown bears, bison, caribou, Dall sheep, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, muskox, and wolf) as well as furbearers and migratory birds across 26 game management units and sub-units. Conducted coordination and support projects, including biometrics and geographic information systems (GIS) support, for research and management projects, a habitat enhancement project, and wildlife and fire management planning projects.

Wildlife Research

Wildlife research projects through Pittman-Roberson Wildlife Restoration funding conducted during FY08 include 22 related to the following big game species; moose, deer, caribou, bear, sheep, wildlife habitat, furbearers, wolf, and muskox. Research on Steller sea lions, harbor seals, ice seals, bowhead whales continue.

Public Services

Continued 5 intensive management programs in an effort to increase ungulate species for human consumption by controlling predators in 6 game management units: 12, 13, 16B, 19A, 19D, and 20E.

Conducted 262 hunter education clinics and classes in approximately 30 communities around the state, certifying 3,869 total students. There were 147 basic hunter education, 95 bowhunter, and 20 muzzleloader classes. Trained 79 volunteer instructors at regional workshops in Nome, Juneau, Fairbanks, Anchorage, the Mat-Su valley, and Kenai Peninsula.

Continued to enhance the division's outreach to schools and community groups, holding wildlife curriculum training for teachers, wildlife-related lectures and workshops, and supporting the work of division managers by better informing the public about wildlife management issues and challenges.

Directly served hunters and the public by receiving and responding to an estimated 600–1,400 public contacts on an average daily basis (telephone, email, letters, and walk-ins) from the general public, students, teachers, civic and special interest organizations, and media about wildlife biology, hunting and trapping regulations, wildlife management programs, and the like. Estimated total contacts are 120,000–150,000 at 4 regional and 18 area offices.

Prepared written news releases, public service announcements, brochures, and media interviews with information about wildlife safety, hunting, trapping, management, and research to satisfy immediate and ongoing public information needs. Updated other informational materials about hunting areas and wildlife viewing on an "as needed" basis, including hunt area maps and updates reflecting changes made by the Alaska Board of Game; also provided "Hunt Alaska" packets containing hunting information to an estimated 6,000 hunters.

Continued to develop a division nongame wildlife program and completed preparation of a statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as required by federal State Wildlife Grant legislation.

Contact Information

Contact: Doug Larsen, Director
Phone: (907) 465-4190
Fax: (907) 465-6142
E-mail: doug.larsen@alaska.gov

**Wildlife Conservation
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2008 Actuals				FY2009 Management Plan				FY2010 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Wildlife Conservation	3,162.0	10,047.8	7,110.2	20,320.0	4,781.4	11,047.7	8,755.8	24,584.9	4,812.6	11,322.3	8,675.9	24,810.8
WC Restoration Program	610.5	1,343.9	0.0	1,954.4	689.0	2,753.8	0.0	3,442.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
WC Special Projects	130.0	4,336.6	1,434.6	5,901.2	1,388.8	4,671.5	1,989.6	8,049.9	1,842.9	7,373.4	2,093.0	11,309.3
Hunter Ed Public Shooting Ranges	139.1	0.0	516.5	655.6	0.0	0.0	608.1	608.1	0.0	0.0	614.1	614.1
Totals	4,041.6	15,728.3	9,061.3	28,831.2	6,859.2	18,473.0	11,353.5	36,685.7	6,655.5	18,695.7	11,383.0	36,734.2

Wildlife Conservation
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2009 Management Plan to FY2010 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2009 Management Plan	6,859.2	18,473.0	11,353.5	36,685.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Wildlife Conservation	31.2	274.6	-79.9	225.9
-WC Restoration Program	-689.0	-2,753.8	0.0	-3,442.8
-WC Special Projects	-475.9	2,701.9	103.4	2,329.4
-Hunter Ed Public Shooting Ranges	0.0	0.0	6.0	6.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-WC Special Projects	930.0	0.0	0.0	930.0
FY2010 Governor	6,655.5	18,695.7	11,383.0	36,734.2